GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1601
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Regulation on Online Sale of Medicines
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no regulation on online sale of medicines in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the chemists across the country have called for an indefinite strike to demand regulation on online sale of medicines;
(c) if so, whether All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) have requested the Government to make it mandatory for companies to produce a price list to retailers with the updated MRPs; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the concerns of the chemists in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a): In accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules made thereunder, the sale of drugs in the country is regulated by the State Licensing Authorities. As per the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945, drugs specified in Schedule H, H1 or Schedule X cannot be sold by retail except on and in accordance with the prescription
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of a Registered Medical Practitioner. The supply of prescription drugs can be effected only by or under the personal supervision of a registered pharmacist from a licensed premises.
(b): As per the information available, the All India Organization of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) had called for one day strike on 14th October, 2015 against the online sale of medicines.
(c): Yes Madam. AIOCD had with reference to the directions issued by National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority(NPPA) vide their OM No 25(5)/2014/Div-V/NPPA dated 13.04.2016 to comply with the notified prices fixed / revised by them, had requested the Government vide their letter dated 20.04.2016.
(d): NPPA issued a clarificatory OM No. 25(5)/2014/Div-V/NPPA dated 10.05.2016 directing all manufacturers and retailers to ensure that prices fixed/notified by NPPA for essential medicines are duly implemented and benefit of price is made available to consumers. No further communication has been received.
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